SETTING UP OF TOBACCO BANK

*258. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Tobacco Bank to deal exclusively with problem of tobacco exporters and tobacco growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for not exploring this possibility to remove routine and perennial problems of tobacco export traders and growers; and

(d) wether the Tobacco Board has studied the liberalised policy of Government and R.B.I with regard to permitting opening up of small banks of this nature ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The problems of credit in the tobacco sector are mainly related to termination of the rupee trading arrangement with the erstwhile USSR and excess production. Govt. have taken steps to ensure timely and required availability of credit against authorised crop and export orders. Moreover, the export traders and farmers cooperatives can avail of the facilities under the liberalised banking policy.

IMPORT OF TIMBER

*259. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to import timber in the current Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Under the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97 which is to co-terminate with the Eighth Five-Year Plan period, import of all kinds of timber logs is allowed freely.

*260. [*Transferred to 21st December, 1993*]

DETAILS OF DISTRIBUTION OF ITEMS THROUGH PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN STATES

2280. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the monthly quota fixed for Rice, Wheat, Kerosene, Sugar, Vegetable oil etc. for distribution through Public Distribution System for the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, State-wise, Commodities-wise;

(b) what is the actual release to these States, month wise, itemwise, specially to Gujarat State during the year 1992-93 and upto October, 1993 ;

(c) whether the quota fixed for these States particularly to the State of Gujarat are sufficient to meet their requirement; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to increase the quota of these essential commodities to these States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) A statement showing the monthwise allocation and off-take from April, 1992 till October, 1993 of rice, wheat, kerosene, sugar and imported edible oil to Governments of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh is given in Annexure. [*See*...Appendix CLXIX, Annexure No. 53].

(c) and (d) Demand for foodgrains are received from States including Gujarat and are considered by the Government But, allocations of PDS items are made to the State Governments taking into account the overall stocks in Central Pool, procurement made, inter-se requirements of States/UTs and seasonal factors. PDS allocations are supplemental in nature and are not intended to meet the total demand of any State/U.T.

PRICES OF EDIBLE OIL

2281. **SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA** : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of edible oils have increased and are likely to increase more in the coming months due to delay in the reimbursement of Market Intervention Operation losses by Government;

(b) if so, whether Government are not clearing the issue resulting in the increase in prices of edible oils; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check the rise in prices of edible oils in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no relation between the reimbursement of Market Intervention Operation losses and the market prices of edible oils. The market prices of edible oils are basically a function of the demand-supply equation.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Government to check the rise in prices of edible oils are :—

(a) Reduction of the stock holding limits of producers, manufacturers and dealers of oilseeds and edible oils;

(b) Increase in the minimum margin money on the bank advances against oilseeds and vegetable oils by 15 per cent point across the board by RBI w.e.f. 12th October, 1993.

(c) Government's decision to import edible oils as and when necessary to supplement the indigenous supplies.

(d) Arrival of US-AID Soyabean oil.

CASES PENDING BEFORE THE DELHI CONSUMER REDRESSAL FORUM

2282. **SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :**
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) how many cases are pending before the Delhi Consumer Redressal Forum for disposal, as on date;

(b) the details of the cases which are pending for three years;

(c) the number of cases which were instituted before the Forum during the last three years, year-wise ;

(d) the number of cases which were disposed of by the Forum year-wise; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government for speedy disposal of consumer cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (d) As reported by the Delhi Government 7053 cases are